

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.-17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A method for expressing recombinant proteins comprising:  
introducing into cyanobacteria a sequence encoding a protein downstream of an  
inducible cyanobacterial transcription promoter sequence;  
inducing the expression of the protein; and  
isolating the recombinant proteins synthesized.
19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the transcription promoter sequence  
comprises a cyanobacterial *nir* operon.
20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the transcription promoter sequence is  
induced by one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of nitrates or  
nitrites.
21. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the transcription promoter sequence is  
induced by  $\text{NaNO}_3$ .
22. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the cyanobacterium is a cyanobacterium  
*Anabaena*.
23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the cyanobacterium is *Anabaena sp.*  
PCC 7120.
24. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the cyanobacteria is cultured in a medium  
comprising  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ , or  $^2\text{H}$ .
25. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the cyanobacteria is cultured in a medium  
comprising  $\text{Na}^{15}\text{NO}_3$ .
26. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the expressed recombinant protein is toxic  
for the cyanobacteria.

27. (New) A vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding a recombinant protein under the control of an inducible cyanobacterial transcription promoter sequence.
28. (New) The vector of claim 27, wherein the inducible cyanobacterial transcription promoter sequence comprises a cyanobacterial *nir* operon.
29. (New) A method of expressing recombinant proteins comprising:  
introducing into cyanobacteria the vector of claim 27;  
inducing the expression of the protein; and  
isolating the recombinant proteins synthesized.
30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the cyanobacteria is cultured in a medium comprising  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ , or  $^2\text{H}$ .
31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the cyanobacteria is cultured in a medium comprising  $\text{Na}^{15}\text{NO}_3$ .
32. (New) A cyanobacterium transformed with the vector of claim 27.
33. (New) The cyanobacterium of claim 32, wherein the cyanobacterium is a cyanobacterium *Anabaena*.
34. (New) The cyanobacterium of claim 33, wherein the cyanobacterium is *Anabaena sp.* PCC 7120.